



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
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ATLANTA GEORGIA 30303-8960

March 17, 2016

Mr. Matthew Higdon
NEPA Compliance
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

SUBJECT: EPA NEPA Review Comments on TVA's FEIS for the "Floating House Policy Review" CEQ #20160045

Dear Mr. Higdon:

Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4 Office reviewed and commented on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS) for the "Floating House Policy Review" on August 18, 2015. The purpose of this letter is to provide TVA with our review comments regarding the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

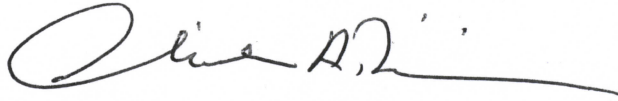
The TVA is responsible for managing a range of programs for the conservation and the development of the natural resources in the Tennessee Valley. In carrying out this mission, the TVA operates a system of dams and reservoirs on the Tennessee River and its tributaries for the purposes of navigation, flood control, and power production. The TVA has prepared this FEIS document to assess the impacts and to address the environmental, safety, and socioeconomic concerns associated with the proliferation of floating houses (FHs) and non-navigable (NNs) houseboats on the TVA's reservoirs.

The TVA's DEIS document identified alternatives B1 and B2 as the preferred alternatives. The EPA's primary concern with the DEIS alternatives was the potential impacts to water quality associated with the increased growth of NNs/FHs. Section 2 of the FEIS identifies alternative B2 as the preferred alternative. The B2 alternative in the FEIS provides greater details of the modified standards for water quality. To clarify water quality issues as well as permitting issues in greater detail, the TVA has elected to initiate a formal rulemaking process. The EPA recommends that the water quality language from the rulemaking process be included in the Record of Decision (ROD).

The EPA did not previously comment on climate change language on the DEIS as the TVA's proposed policy action and rulemaking on floating houses is not anticipated to generate any greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or require the consideration of climate change adaption strategies or mitigation.

Based upon our review of the FEIS and the response to our DEIS comments, we have no further comments at this time regarding the TVA's preferred alternative. We appreciate your coordination efforts as well as the opportunity to review the FEIS. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Larry Long of my staff at (404) 562-9460 or by email at long.larry@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris A. Militscher", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher A. Militscher
Chief, NEPA Program Office
Resource Conservation and Restoration Division